

Waterbird Count
9/12/06

Just over 200,000 ducks. This is close to the long-term average of 192,000 for this time of year. Total shorebirds 27,000 higher than the long-term average of 20,000 for this time in September. About 15% of birds counted were observed from the wetlands surrounding the tour loop (hunt areas).

Update on the Marbled Godwits equipped with satellite transmitters: Sassy, the bird that went to Saskatchewan-has lost her transmitter at her breeding location. Canadian Wildlife Service biologists have been searching the area. No Marbled godwits left in the area. Berta that went to Alberta, departed Canada on July 23, stopped near Cut Bank, MT for about 24 hours and was located during flight on July 26th. Came right back to the Refuge around 11:24 pm the night of July 26th. Stayed for about 2 weeks and then was located in Blythe, CA for about 2 days. Has been on Sea of Cortez side of the Baja in Mexico since August 17th. On September 4th, much to our surprise, Berta was located over the mainland of MX and continued on into Texas. Within 24 hours it was back at the same estuary in Baja. The apparent reason for the 900 + mile trip was to avoid Hurricane John. Two more Marbled godwits were equipped with satellite transmitters here at the Refuge the first week of August. Both birds remain at the Refuge.

Canada Goose	1650
Mallard	28012
Pintail	21330
GW Teal	53564
Cinnamon Teal	1887
Shoveler	42999
Gadwall	16045
Wigeon	30388
Unk. Dabbler	970
Total Dabblers	195,195
Canvasback	534
Redhead	3488
Ring-necked Duck	26
Ruddy Duck	6725
Total Divers	10,773
Total Waterfowl	207,618
PB Grebe	11
Eared Grebe	32
Western Grebe	77
Clark's Grebe	42
AW Pelican	1405
DC Cormorant	457
GB Heron	111
Great Egret	11
Snowy Egret	93
BC Night Heron	9
White Faced Ibis	4147
Killdeer	2
Black Necked Stilt	4351
Avocet	10232
Willet	1
Greater Yellowlegs	22
Spotted Sandpiper	5
LB Curlew	1
Marbled Godwit	8852

Peep	200
Baird's Sandpiper	40
Pectoral Sandpiper	2
Dowitcher	4230
Total Shorebirds	27,938
Franklin's Gull	136
RB Gull	762
California gull	429
Caspian Tern	2
Forster's Tern	59
Black Tern	20
Virginia Rail	1
Coot	24,022
Sandhill Crane	5
Turkey Vulture	11
Northern Harrier	3
Loggerhead Shrike	1

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